

USAID HIV/AIDS E-Newsletter

May 15, 2003

This newsletter provides regular updates on the U.S. Agency for International Development's Office of HIV/AIDS and partner activities to prevent and mitigate HIV/AIDS across the developing world. We encourage you to circulate this publication to colleagues.

CONTENTS

News

Upcoming Meetings and Events

Recent Events

Publications

Online Resources

NEWS

Zimbabwe Launches HIV/AIDS Advocacy Project

The Futures Group International, with funding from USAID, launched the Zimbabwe AIDS Policy and Advocacy (ZAPA) Project in April. The goal of ZAPA is to mitigate the impact of the AIDS crisis by strengthening the capacity of civil society organizations to advocate for more effective HIV/AIDS policies. At its launching ceremony, ZAPA presented, via the Auxillia Chumusoro Awards, more than \$548,560 to 23 community-based HIV/AIDS organizations, and \$290,909 to another four organizations for their commitment to HIV/AIDS. The awards, funded by USAID, are given in honor of Auxillia Chumusoro, the first person in Zimbabwe to disclose her HIV-positive status. For more information about the ZAPA project, go to: <http://www.futuresgroup.com/WhatWeDo.cfm?page=Projects&ID=53>.

Population Services International Provides HIV Testing for Zimbabwe Workers

New Start Centers have launched an intensified campaign to fight HIV/AIDS in the workplace by offering free voluntary HIV counseling and testing services during the Workers' Day period May 1–10, 2003. Population Services International-Zimbabwe, which developed the New Start Centers, said about 9,000 people had already visited existing centers this year, compared to 4,500 last year. A past winner of the prestigious Auxillia Chumusoro Award, New Start Centers are a tripartite initiative with the Ministry of Health and Child Welfare, USAID, and Population Services International. To learn more, go to: http://www.psi.org/where_we_work/zimbabwe.html.

Ghana Establishes Program to Help Young Girls Develop Skills to Fight HIV/AIDS

Ghana's Ministry of Education, on April 9, introduced a Girls' Empowerment Program to improve the ability of girls, ages 11 to 15 years, to prevent HIV. Dubbed "Sara – 'I Know My Goal,'" the activity is another phase of the successful "Stop AIDS, Love Life" national HIV/AIDS program, which began in February 2000. The Sara Communication Initiative in Ghana is a joint effort of the Ghana Education Service's Girls Education Unit and the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health/Center for Communication Programs, with support from USAID. UNICEF, a key collaborating partner in Ghana, originally developed the Sara Communication Initiative in East Africa. For further information, go to: <http://www.jhuccp.org/pressroom/2003/04-09.shtml>.

Comic Book and Video to Combat HIV/AIDS Stigma in Francophone Africa

A new comic book and video designed to alleviate the stigmatization of and discrimination against people living with HIV/AIDS is being distributed now in French-speaking Africa under a program called "Living Positively." The program addresses behaviors, attitudes, and recommended practices for people infected or affected by HIV. "Living Positively" is part of the HIV/AIDS communication strategy for the USAID-supported Family Health and AIDS project for 2002 and 2003. To learn more, see: <http://www.jhuccp.org/pressroom/2003/02-13.shtml>.

Millions in New AIDS Funds Bring Hope to Life-and-Death Struggles in Haiti

With an estimated 300,000 of Haiti's 8.3 million people infected with HIV and thousands dying each year, doctors there say many people can be saved with the \$25 million grant from the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria. The first disbursements reached nonprofit groups in Haiti in March 2003. During the next two years, the money will be used to help expand prevention and treatment programs and buy antiretroviral drugs for thousands of patients. The Global Fund also signed agreements with Madagascar, Serbia, and Rwanda worth \$15 million. The United States, in part through USAID, is a major contributor to the Global Fund. For details about these Global Fund commitments and others, visit: <http://www.globalfundatm.org/index.html>.

YouthNet and Africa No. 1 Join Efforts to Combat HIV/AIDS

The YouthNet Program of Family Health International launched a collaborative HIV and pregnancy prevention and stigma reduction campaign for youth, in partnership with Africa No. 1, the only independent Francophone Africa radio network. The campaign consists primarily of public service announcements (PSAs) featuring popular African musicians and soccer stars. YouthNet also conducted a message development workshop for youth, which was held at Africa No. 1 headquarters. At the end of the workshop, participants recorded messages of their own. The PSAs are played every Saturday night during a popular musical variety program for youth, with repeats every Wednesday night, through June 30. To learn more, visit: <http://www.africa1.com>.

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

International Candlelight Memorial Scheduled for May 18

Thousands of individuals in more than 1,500 communities in 85 countries will participate in the world's largest and oldest annual grassroots HIV/AIDS event on May 18, 2003. The Global Health Council's International AIDS Candlelight Memorial is designed to honor the memory of those lost to HIV/AIDS, show support for those living with HIV/AIDS, raise awareness of HIV/AIDS, and mobilize community involvement in the fight against HIV/AIDS. Read more at: <http://www.candlelightmemorial.org/intro.php>.

USAID Official Is Featured Speaker at Global Health Council Conference

Dr. E. Anne Peterson, USAID Bureau for Global Health's Assistant Administrator, will be among the Global Health Council's featured speakers at its 30th annual conference, "Our Future on Common Ground: Health and the Environment." Set for May 27–30, 2003, in Washington, DC, the conference will examine the roles health care practitioners can play in addressing health disparities born from and intrinsically related to countries' physical, social, and economic environments. For more information, visit http://www.globalhealth.org/view_top.php3?id=193.

International Meeting Explores Improving Access to Medicines in Developing Countries

The Strategies for Enhancing Access to Medicines Program of Management Sciences for Health (MSH) will host its third international conference on "Targeting Improved Access to Medicines," June 16–18, 2003, in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. The conference will focus on the problem of access to essential medicines in the developing world. The meeting is presented in collaboration with the Ministry of Health of the United Republic of Tanzania, the World Health Organization's Department of Essential Drugs and Medicines Policy, the Rockefeller Foundation, the International Network for Rational Use of Drugs, and MSH's Rational Pharmaceutical Management Plus Program, which is funded by USAID. For more information, visit: www.msh.org/seam/conference.

RECENT EVENTS

USAID Staff Learns Skills to Integrate Health and Human Rights for Development

The Synergy Project, in collaboration with the Harvard François-Xavier Bagnoud Center for Health and Human Rights, USAID, and the POLICY Project, conducted a three-day workshop last month on health and human rights. The course was designed to equip USAID program officers with skills for addressing health and human rights in the design of population, health, and nutrition and democracy and governance interventions. The workshop offered participants a practical framework for looking at the relationship between health and human rights and achieving development objectives. For more details, visit: http://www.synergyaids.com/tc_devFXB2003.htm.

Horizons Sponsors Symposium on Care and Support

Researchers and program professionals on the front lines of the AIDS pandemic in Zambia and India reported at a May 13 symposium on the successful strategies they use to meet the needs of people living with HIV/AIDS. These studies show that even poor communities can launch successful care and support programs and improve existing care for people living with HIV/AIDS, using creative planning and relatively modest donor support. A webcast of the symposium can be viewed at: <http://www.kaisernetwork.org/healthcast/horizons/13may03>.

PUBLICATIONS

USAID Develops HIV/AIDS Monitoring and Evaluation System

USAID recently published “Expanded Response Guide to Core Indicators for Monitoring and Reporting on HIV/AIDS Programs,” which summarizes expert knowledge on which indicators to use and how to measure progress in many aspects of HIV/AIDS programs. The guide is currently featured at: http://www.usaid.gov/pop_health/aids/TechAreas/monitoreval/expandresponse.pdf.

POLICY Publications Target Nongovernmental and Faith-Based Organizations

“Learning through Practice: Integrating HIV/AIDS into NGO Programmes—A Guide” is a resource for nongovernmental organizations on how to apply for and make efficient use of funding for HIV/AIDS programs and activities. The guide can be downloaded at: http://www.dec.org/pdf_docs/PNACR898.pdf.

“Strengthening Faith-Based Responses to HIV/AIDS,” a POLICY Project fact sheet, provides citations for relevant resources, projects, and other initiatives of interest to the faith-based sector. For examples of POLICY’s work by faith-based organizations, view: http://www.dec.org/pdf_docs/PNACS152.pdf.

USAID Shares a Collection of HIV/AIDS Prevention Practices

USAID and the SARA Project recently published “Multisectoral Responses to HIV/AIDS: A Compendium of Promising Practices from Africa,” featuring 22 practices submitted by 13 private voluntary organizations working in Africa. It can be downloaded at: http://sara.aed.org/publications/hiv_aids/aids_in_africa/Multisectoral_Responses.pdf.

CHANGE Project Releases Paper on Prevention of Mother-To-Child Transmission of HIV

“A Behavior Change Perspective on Integrating PMTCT and Safe Motherhood Programmes,” a discussion paper published, by The CHANGE Project (Academy for Educational Development/The Manoff Group), focuses on prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) program elements related to improved obstetric practice, and discusses the potential synergies of integrating PMTCT and safe motherhood programs, particularly the behavior change components. It is available at: www.changeproject.org.

Horizons Study Confirms Benefits of Succession Planning for AIDS-Affected Children

A pioneering Horizons study examines succession planning programs for AIDS-affected families that reach HIV-positive parents and their children while the family is still able to plan for the children's future. The research, conducted in Uganda, shows that HIV-positive parents exposed to succession planning programs

were more likely to appoint guardians and to disclose their serostatus to at least one child. For more details, see: www.popcouncil.org/horizons/ressum/orphans/orphanssum.html.

Horizons Report Documents Model for Continuum of HIV/AIDS Care and Support

A Horizons study of YRG CARE, a nonprofit in India that offers services to people living with HIV/AIDS, has issued a report describing the organization's conceptual and operational model of integrated prevention, care, and support. This report was compiled as a background piece in support of the wider Horizons study on YRG CARE services and how they can be scaled up in South India. The report is available at: www.popcouncil.org/pdfs/horizons/yrgerbsmdl.pdf.

FANTA Project Releases Handbook on Nutrition and HIV/AIDS

“Handbook: Developing and Applying National Guidelines on Nutrition and HIV/AIDS” provides guidance for country teams and national AIDS control programs on building a multisectoral team; adapting generic and country-specific materials to write national guidelines; integrating HIV/AIDS nutritional care and support into programs and services; and monitoring and evaluating the process and outcomes. The handbook is available at: www.fantaproject.org.

HIV/AIDS Prevention Programs Sourcebook Now Available

A “Sourcebook of HIV/AIDS Prevention Programs” was recently published as part of the global effort to accelerate the education sector response to HIV/AIDS, particularly in Africa. The sourcebook documents 13 education-based HIV/AIDS prevention programs targeting children and youth from seven sub-Saharan African countries. Developed by the Partnership for Child Development with the World Bank, the publication was also sponsored by USAID, Ireland AID, United Kingdom Department for International Development, and several United Nation agencies. It is accessible at: <http://www.schoolsandhealth.org/HIV-AIDS%20&%20Education.htm>.

ONLINE RESOURCES

USAID and Synergy Increase Awareness of HIV/AIDS Via Website

The Latin America and Caribbean HIV/AIDS Regional Initiative website shares HIV/AIDS best practices, research, guidelines, data, and program experience. Aimed at policy makers and program managers in USAID target countries in Latin America —Bolivia, Brazil, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, and Peru—the site also provides a venue for other countries in the region to participate in technical exchanges, dialogue, and sharing of resources on HIV/AIDS. Developed by USAID's Latin America and Caribbean Bureau and The Synergy Project, the website is accessible at: <http://www.synergyaids.com/lacri aids>.

Population, Health, and Nutrition Information Project Launches Online Database

The new “Data Online for Population, Health, and Nutrition” (DOLPHN) system is a statistical data resource containing selected current and historical country-level demographic and health indicator data. The DOLPHN database provides users with quick and easy access to commonly used statistics and is helpful as a reference and analytical tool. To access DOLPHN, go to: www.phnip.com/dolphn/.

POLICY Launches Human Rights Matrix

The POLICY Project's “Human Rights Matrix” is an Internet-based tool that lists international human rights treaties and consensus statements relevant to reproductive and maternal health, family planning, and HIV/AIDS. The Matrix permits access to international human rights information on more than 40 developing countries. To access the Matrix, visit: <http://www.policyproject.com/matrix>.

The Synergy Project publishes this newsletter on behalf of USAID'S Office of HIV/AIDS. To subscribe, click on <mailto:listserv@list.s-3.com?Body=SUBSCRIBE%20SUBSCRIBE>. To unsubscribe click on

<mailto:listserv@list.s-3.com?Body=UNSUBSCRIBE%20SUBSCRIBE>, or go to www.synergyaids.com/newsletter.asp. For those without Web access, to subscribe or unsubscribe, send an e-mail to: listserv@list.s-3.com with "subscribe subscribe" or "unsubscribe subscribe" in the body of the e-mail.

USAID's Office of HIV/AIDS welcomes newsletter submissions from USAID Missions and partner agencies. Send information to enews@tvtaassociates.com by the 2nd of the month.